

The Times' Daily Short Story.

A PARROT'S CARETAKER

(Original)

I had been looking for a position as governess for months. Mother and I were coming to our last cent, and I was no nearer finding anything to do when one morning I took up a paper to examine the "want" column, when I came upon this:

Wanted.—A person to take charge of a pet during owner's absence.

Thinking that I might make a few dollars a week by keeping the pet in our rooms, I determined to answer the advertisement in person, since the address was given.

I found an old lady who in appearance reminded me of pictures I had seen in Dickens' "Dombey and Son" of Mrs. Pipchin, only the lady who received me was a spinster and her name was Miss Brattle. The pet she required a caretaker for was a parrot. When I proposed to take it home with me she declared that Alonzo would not be contented away from home and whoever took charge of him must stay in her house, which would be kept open during her absence. She was a kindly old lady, and I told her how I was situated, whereupon she told me I could bring my mother to stay with me. Since the salary she offered was considerable for such a work, after talking the matter over with mother we decided to accept the proposition.

The house was to be left in charge of a maid and her wife. No one else was expected to be there unless a nephew of Miss Brattle should take it into his head to come to the city.

Miss Brattle departed for a three months' absence, and mother and I took possession of a suit of delightful rooms. Of course we were "in clover," the whole house to ourselves, not a creature to intrude upon us. But one morning the maid informed us that the nephew, Mr. Chester Graves, would be there for dinner and would occupy the room which had always been set apart for him. We were sorry for this, but hoped he would spend most of his time elsewhere. Indeed, the servant told me that usually when in town he was either engaged in business or at his club.

Mr. Graves proved to be a young man of twenty-five. He was very affable, chatted pleasantly at dinner and afterward proposed a three handed game of cards. Mother never plays cards, so I declined also, but the young man remained with us and did not go out till we went upstairs.

I expected that Chester Graves would stay in town but a few days or at most a week since the maid-servant said that was his customary visit. He remained several weeks, spending most of the early part of the evenings with mother and me. Then he went away, but in a week he was back again.

Another was not at all well and would go upstairs very early, but as Mr. Graves declared that he should be lonely in such a large house without any one to keep him company mother said I had better remain in the parlor till he went to his club, which was about 10 o'clock.

Well, Mr. Graves was in the city more than half the time during his aunt's absence and insisted on my keeping him company every evening after dinner till 10 o'clock. We usually sat in the drawing room, Alonzo being caged in the library adjoining. Somehow I felt that he served for a chaperon.

At last Miss Brattle wrote that she would be at home in a few days, and my heart sank at the prospect of leaving such pleasant quarters for our uninviting rooms. Mr. Graves was in the city when his aunt's letter came, and he said he would remain and welcome her. I thought this was partly because he wished to cheer me up, seeing that I was plunged in melancholy. Miss Brattle arrived about half past 9 o'clock one evening. Mother had gone to bed, but Mr. Graves and I met the old lady at the door. The first thing she did was to go into the library to see that Alonzo was all right. Then we three sat in the drawing room chatting. Presently the old clock in the hall wheezed out ten slow strokes.

"Ten o'clock, Chester!" came a voice from the library.

Mr. Graves cast a frightened glance at me, while I—well, I was in an agony of terror. For heaven's sake, what more was to come?

"One more kiss, sweetheart," Miss Brattle possibly might not have noticed the parrot's remarks had not Chester looked sheepish. I blushing to the roots of my hair. Then what should the abominable bird do but screech, "You shan't!" "I shall!" following up the last remark by an imitation of a dozen or more snakes.

Mr. Graves' embarrassment and my telltale blushes gave his aunt a perfectly true account of what had been transpiring during her absence. Without a word she arose, evidently with the intention of leaving us to make our adieux in our usual way, but as she was going out Mr. Graves stopped her. He had not asked me to be his wife. He had merely chosen (I suspected) to pass time pleasantly with me. But he was a true man and, now that we were caught, spoke like a man.

"Aunt Sara," he said, "I am indebted to you for going away and getting a keeper for Alonzo, though he is very ungrateful to give us away, for I take pleasure in presenting you to my promised bride."

What an unblushing lie! After our marriage Miss Brattle confessed that upon seeing me and hearing my story she had used me for a bait to draw her nephew away from club life. Had it not been for the parrot the plan might possibly have cost me dear, though my husband says not.

ROSAMOND ALICIA BUDD.

The Bishop's Swans.

The palace of the bishop of Bath and Wells, England, is surrounded by a moat crossed by a drawbridge. Attached to the porter's lodge at the left side of the drawbridge is a bell, which is placed there for the convenience of the swans, which, when they are hungry, swim up to the lodge and ring the bell until food is given to them.

Lemons.

The tiny black specks seen on almost every lemon are the eggs of an insect. If the grated rind is used these eggs become an unwholesome element of the dish. Lemons should be dropped into water as soon as they come from the store, then scrubbed with a little brush, dried with a cloth and hung in a net in a cupboard until used.

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CONDITION OF TRADE.

Little Change During Week, but Outlook Is Better.

New York, June 11.—R. G. Dun & Co.'s weekly review of trade says: Current trade conditions are without change and collections continue slow as a rule, but there is growing confidence in the future, dealers exhibiting an inclination to prepare for fall and winter on a larger scale. There is still much complaint that the weather is unseasonable for retail distribution, and payments are not prompt. It is encouraging to find that the best authorities concur in the opinion that present unsatisfactory results will be temporary, and several branches of manufacture are operating on this basis.

Reports regarding the building trades are almost uniformly favorable, structural work increasing as the season advances, and transporting prospects are brighter on the lakes. Railway earnings, now practically complete for April, show a loss of only 2.9 per cent compared with last year, and surpass the corresponding month of any preceding year. The decline in the cost of living has continued without interruption since March 1. Foreign commerce at this port for the last week shows a loss of \$2,644,535 in exports, and a gain of \$888,825 in imports, as compared with the same week last year. Speculation is still narrow and professional, which accounts in a large measure for the loss of 27.4 per cent in bank exchanges at this city, compared with the same week of 1903. At other leading cities the decrease was 5.5 per cent.

List prices for iron and steel products are maintained in most cases mainly because of agreements rather than the support of consumption. Demand is extremely limited.

Reaction continues in the cotton market. The July option fell to a point \$22.25 a bale below the highest point of the crop year. Western wheat receipts of 1,788,789 bushels for the week fell short of the 1,954,973 last year, and exports were still smaller by comparison, 931,277 bushels, four included, compared with 1,058,719. Corn arrivals were 4,852,541 bushels against 2,389,888 bushels, and Atlantic coast exports of 199,570 bushels were much smaller than the 765,344 bushels in 1903.

Liabilities of commercial failures thus far reported for June aggregated \$1,905,157, of which \$486,423 were in manufacturing, \$838,007 in trading and \$280,727 in other commercial lines. Failures this week numbered 227 in the United States against 215 last year and 29 in Canada compared with 14 a year ago.

RUSSIAN MINISTER SHOT.

Czar's Representative at Bern Victim of a Crank.

Berne, Switzerland, June 11.—The Russian minister here, M. V. V. Jadovskii, was shot in a street here and seriously injured in the head. The would-be assassin was arrested. M. Jadovskii's assailant was a Russian named Hantzki. He had been in Bern for some weeks and complained that the Russian authorities had confiscated an estate belonging to him.

M. Jadovskii's wound, although it at first appeared to be severe, is not dangerous.

Edward Sends Cape May Cup Back.

London, June 11.—The Cape May cup returns to its original home on board the American line steamer St. Louis. The Royal Yacht squadron obtained the trophy from King Edward, and it is now consigned to the New York Yacht club. The Royal Yacht squadron, as announced May 30, was obliged to decline the challenge for the Cape May cup of Commodore Marston F. Platt of the Larchmont Yacht club because King Edward's cutter Britannia, which held the cup, is too antiquated to defend it. The conditions of the cup require that it must be defended by the latest winner.

Colorado Train Robbers Escape.

Newcastle, Colo., June 11.—The two survivors of the band of train robbers who dynamited an express car on the Denver and Rio Grande railroad near Parachute have escaped from a ridge in Gardiner Creek canyon, where they had apparently been surrounded by pursuers. They cannot have gone far and it is believed they will soon be located. Bloodhounds are being used to trail the robbers. The third member of the band, who was killed, has been identified as J. H. Ross, a section man. Ross shot himself in the head after he had been wounded by the posse.

Philippine Internal Revenue Law.

Manila, June 11.—The original draft of the proposed internal revenue law has been simplified in various respects. Many of the rates have been reduced and some classes of taxes have been entirely eliminated, notably the tax upon corporations. The commission will reconvene here June 20 and a public discussion of the proposed law will follow.

KNOX NOW A SENATOR

Appointed by Pennypacker as Successor to M. S. Quay.

WITH PRESIDENT'S APPROVAL

Attorney General Declares That His Resignation From the Cabinet Will Not Disturb the Status Quo of the Administration.

Harrisburg, Pa., June 11.—Governor Pennypacker has appointed Philander C. Knox successor to the late United States Senator Quay.

Governor Pennypacker also announced that he would not call the legislature in extra session. This means that the appointment of Mr. Knox is for the unexpired term, ending March 4, 1905.

Senator Knox says in an interview printed in a Philadelphia paper: "My retirement from the cabinet will in no way affect the policy of the administration as pursued by President Roosevelt. Mr. Roosevelt stands for certain principles. Upon my resignation Mr. Roosevelt will experience no difficulty in selecting a man who will continue to represent those principles and carry out the national policy as set down by him. I cannot conceive how my retirement as attorney general will affect the presidential campaign. I have no fear that



SENATOR PHILANDER C. KNOX.

the action of the leaders of the Republican party of Pennsylvania in deciding to present my name for the senatorship will be made a campaign issue. One individual cannot injure the chances of President Roosevelt.

"I did not give the slightest thought to the senatorship until I was asked if I would agree to accept it if it were tendered to me. I replied that if my name was viewed with favor by the party throughout the state I would consider it a high honor to succeed Senator Quay."

Senator Knox's Career.

Philander Chase Knox is the son of a country banker, David S. Knox, and was born at Brownsville, Fayette county, Pa., not far from James G. Blaine's old home, on May 6, 1853. He received his education at Mount Union college, Ohio, graduating in the class of 1872. He went to Pittsburgh and studied law with the late H. Bucher Swope, famous western Pennsylvania legal circles as the most efficient district attorney for the United States out there in the past half century.

Mr. Knox completed his studies with Swope's successor, David Reed. He was admitted to the Allegheny bar in January, 1875. In 1877 he formed his present partnership with J. H. Reed, some time United States circuit court judge for the western district of Pennsylvania.

He became in the earlier days of Carnegie the ironmaster's lawyer, receiving, it is said, a yearly income of \$50,000 from that source alone. He had a shrewd head for business as well as law. In time he came to be a stockholder in the United States Steel corporation, the Union Trust company, the Pittsburgh, Bessemer and Lake Erie railway and other powerful corporations.

First Public Office.

His first public office and his only one for years was that of assistant United States district attorney for the western district of Pennsylvania, which position he occupied from the spring of 1875 to June of 1876. He then resigned to devote himself to his business. For twenty years he was one of the most successful corporation lawyers in the United States. His personal retainers amounted to \$90,000 a year.

When President McKinley asked him to become attorney general in 1897 he declined because he could not afford to exchange a professional income of \$150,000 for a salary of \$8,000 and a carriage. He was better able to make the sacrifice when, four years later, he was again asked by the president to accept that office, made vacant by the resignation of John W. Griggs. He was sworn into office April 9, 1901, was the choice of President Roosevelt for his reorganized cabinet, and was confirmed by the senate December 16, 1902.

Mr. Knox has been from the first one of the most conspicuous members of the president's cabinet. The administration considers his prosecution of the Northern Securities and other trust cases one of its chief claims upon the suffrages of the people.



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ECHOES FROM THE WAR

Incidents of the Japanese Naval Operations.

PROFITIOUS OMEN OF VICTORY.

Legendary Story Told of the Doves at the Hachiman Shrine in Hakozaki—Happenings Which Show the Heroism, Courage and Patriotic Fervor of the Japanese.

The following little side lights dealing with Japanese naval operations in the far east are taken from "Anecdotes and Incidents of the Japan-Russian Naval Warfare," published in Tokyo.

Many superstitious stories are invented by the Japanese to show their firm conviction that they would win in this war. One of these stories is about the dove, which, you know, is believed from the old times to be a messenger of the Hachiman Daibosatsu, Japanese Mars, and to be a good omen in battle. Again, you must have learned in the history of Japan that the Hachiman shrine at Hakozaki, Fukuoka, Chikuzen province, has the reputation of having caused the defeat of the foreign invaders. Well, there are many doves at the shrine at Hakozaki. On the occasion of the China-Japanese war, some years ago, they flew away for an unknown destination and did not return until the end of that war. This strange behavior of the doves was a puzzle to the people of those times, and the story has come down to the present. Now, prior to the beginning of the Russia-Japanese naval battle—that is, on Feb. 5—about 700 doves, which were usually assembled in the neighborhood of the Fuku-Tekimon (triumphal arch) came down in groups of from thirty to fifty to the sacred basin, in which the people wash their hands before they worship at the shrine, and washed their wings. At the end of that day, about 7 in the evening, a tremendous sound, as of the crashing of the towering arch, was heard by the much frightened people of the neighborhood, who then hastened to the shrine to see what had occurred. Lo! Hundreds of doves were uniformly ascending to the skies and then flew in the direction of the northwest. These doves up to a recent date had not returned. The people alleged that they have gone to Korea in order to protect our forces. Before many days had elapsed after their departure the victory at Chemulpo was reported.

The heads of Japanese children are deeply imbued with a feeling of pride for the imperial household and the country. Of many stories of their animosity one of the most interesting is about Masanori Okawa, an eight-year-old boy who contributed to the war fund the sum of 4,329 yen, the total of his pocket money received from his parents, with an accompanying letter written by himself. The letter says: "This money is my savings, made up of five or ten sen tips received from my parents. War has commenced be-

tween Japan and Russia. I want to go to the war, but I am too small to go. I wish to have bullets bought with this money, which I give to the government, in order that we may win the battle. As my parents approve of my contribution, please accept it. As a reward, if you win the war, please give me a sword."

A third class bluejacket on board the Fuji had his right hand cut off by a shell. The worthy Japanese bluejacket calmly picked up the hand with his left one and, bringing it to a surgeon, said, "Will this become as it was before?"

The warship Mikasa was the focus of the enemy's fire. Amid the hail of shots a man with pen and paper stood by Vice Admiral Togo, commander in chief. He was the chronicler of the naval battle. Kanaburo Yoshimura by name, and naval judiciary by office, Captain Shimamura repeatedly cautioned him to go down, as he was exposed to danger. Mr. Yoshimura would not hear the caution. He remained upon the bridge, where many a shot was arriving, and said: "I am the only civil officer on board. If I were concealed, where could I get the materials for the history of the war?" He still remained there when, with a thunderous crash, a big shell hit the Mikasa. Its fragments hit him on the shoulder and right leg and inflicted serious wounds. Some time prior to this, when peaceful relations between Russia and Japan became almost impossible, it was rumored that a change would take place among the crew of Japanese warships. No sooner had this rumor reached Mr. Yoshimura than he appeared at the department of the navy and declared, "In case the government transfers me from the fleet to a post on land I will commit harikari in the presence of such an order."

The desperate attempt to block Port Arthur having proved no complete success, the four officers, including Sub-lieutenants Torisaki and Saito, felt so much ashamed that they got their heads entirely shaved by way of penitence. This sentiment prevailing among the Japanese warriors well explains the reason why they are so brave.

Prodigal Father's Intention. The prodigal son had just come home. "I really meant this reception to impress your mother," confided the old gentleman. "My welcome when I came home from the club last night was very different."

Satisfied with having set a fine example for the future, he turned his attention to the real.—New York Tribune.

Nerves and Piano Tuning. It was testified in a London police court recently that innuendo asylums contain a larger percentage of piano tuners than of representatives of any other trade. Any one who has been forced to listen to a piano being tuned can understand the nerve racking nature of such a business.

Goodies. In the thirteenth century the sweetmeats for the tables of royalty and nobility were prepared by the apothecaries, who called their confections "goodies."



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